

CLAIMS

1. A method for increasing hair volume by thickening and/or lengthening, comprising the steps of:
  - \* providing one or a plurality of hair extensions (C) having respective proximal ends (7) provided with a respective connecting element (9);
  - \* providing a first adhesive tape (4; 102) and adhering it to the hair (T) to be thickened on an area intended to receive said proximal ends (7);
  - \* providing a second adhesive tape (3; 104; 204; 304), having an adhesive face (43; 105; 205; 305), and adhering on said adhesive face the proximal ends (7) of said hair extensions (C);
  - \* adhering said adhesive face (43; 105; 205; 305) to the hair to be thickened at said first adhesive tape (4; 102); and
  - \* activating connection means operating on said connecting elements (9) of the hair extensions (C).
2. A method for increasing hair volume by thickening and/or lengthening, comprising the steps of:
  - \* providing one or a plurality of hair extensions (C) comprising respective proximal ends (7) having a respective connecting element (9);
  - \* providing an adhesive tape (2) and arranging, according to a predetermined arrangement, said proximal ends (7) onto the adhesive face (43) of a section of said adhesive tape (3) so that the remainder (4) of the adhesive tape may be folded on said section (3);
  - \* enclosing a portion of hair to be thickened between said section (3) and said remainder (4) of folded adhesive tape (2), determining an area intended to receive said proximal ends (7); and
  - \* activating connection means operating on said connecting elements (9) of the hair extensions (C).
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said connecting elements (9) comprises a thermoplastic material.
4. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said connection means are activated by application of energy.
5. A method according to claim 4, wherein heat is applied.
6. A method according to claim 4, wherein mechanical energy in the form of vibrations having a substantially ultrasonic frequency is applied.

7. A method according to claim 4, wherein said energy is applied by means of a gripper applicator (10) comprising a fixed element (12) and a movable pressure element (15), substantially elongated, to apply a uniform pressure along the entire length of said tapes (4; 102, 3; 104; 204; 304).
- 5 8. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said proximal ends (7) are equidistant.
9. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said adhesive tape (4; 102, 3; 104; 204; 304) (2) is transparent.
- 10 10. A method according to claim 1 or 2, providing the removal of said adhesive tapes (4; 102, 3; 104; 204; 304) once the thermoplastic material has solidified.
11. A method according to claim 2, wherein said remainder (4) of adhesive tape (2) is externally adhered to the hair (T) to be thickened, with a respective adhesive face (44) facing the head.
12. A method according to claim 1 or 2, comprising a step of providing  
15 positioning means (310) of said proximal ends (7) at the designed adhesive face (305) to adhere said proximal ends (7) to said adhesive face (305) in accordance with said positioning means (310).
13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said positioning means comprises a plurality of position indicators (310) associated to said adhesive tape (304).
- 20 14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the positioning means comprises a plurality of rows of position indicators (310), each having indicators of different shapes with regard to the dimensions of the respective designed connecting elements (9).
15. A method according to claim 14, wherein, on each row, there is proposed a  
25 density of application of the hair extensions (C) that varies according to the size of the respective designed connecting element (9).
16. A method according to claim 15, wherein, by decreasing the size of the connecting element (9) the pitch between position indicators (310) adjacent on the same row will be reduced.
- 30 17. A method according to claim 13, wherein the position indicators (310) have a shape resembling that of the respective connecting elements (9) so that with the adhesion of the connecting elements (9) to the respective indicator (310) the substantial parallelism of the hair extensions (C) placed on the same adhesive tape (305) is attained automatically.

18. A method according to claim 13, wherein the position indicators (310) are traced on the adhesive tape (305).

19. A method according to claim 1, wherein the positioning means comprises a stencil with positioning traces located below the adhesive tape (305).

5 20. A method according to claim 2, comprising the step of arranging a folding element (50) with a pair of flaps (51, 52) united by a folding line (53), so that said adhesive tape section (3) and the remainder (4) adhere to a respective flap (51, 52), and of enclosing a portion of the hair (T) to be thickened between said section (3) and said remainder (4) of folded adhesive tape (2) singling out an area designed to  
10 receive said proximal ends (7), with the aid of said folding element (50), said folding element (50) being intended to be removed from said portion of the hair (T).

21. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the face (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305) of the adhesive tape (3, 4; 102; 104; 204; 304) intended to come into contact with said connecting element (9) is substantially creased and/or has a marked surface  
15 roughness.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein said faces (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305) have a surface roughness such as to make the adhesive tape (3, 4; 102; 104; 204; 304) and accordingly the applied connecting element (9) opaque.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein said roughness is obtained  
20 according to one of four modes: by a suitable glazing; by a mechanical corrosion, implementable for example with a sanding; by a chemical corrosion, implementable for example with an acid bath in which the tape is immersed; or by an abrasion, implementable with abrasive pads rubbed on the tape face.

24. A method according to one of the claims 21 and 22, wherein said faces (43,  
25 44; 102; 105; 205; 305) have a plurality of ribs and grooves of transversal dimensions similar to the diameter of an individual hair and of orientation parallel to that of the hairs of the hair extensions (C).

25. A method according to claim 24, wherein said ribs and grooves are newly generated on the tape face (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305) by one of four modes: by a  
30 suitable glazing, by an extrusion implemented with a suitable mold, by chemical etching, implementable for example with an adapt silk-screen pad and a corrosive agent applied through the pad; and by a mechanical removal of aligned strips of tape material with suitable abrasive means or surface etching means.

26. A method according to claim 22 and 24, wherein said faces (43, 44; 102; 105;  
35 205; 305) have a surface roughness such as to make the adhesive tape (3, 4; 102; 104;

204; 304) and accordingly the applied connecting element (9) opaque and have a plurality of ribs and grooves of transversal dimensions similar to the diameter of an individual hair and of orientation parallel to that of the hairs of the hair extensions (C).

5 27. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the face (3, 4; 102; 104; 204; 304) of adhesive tape (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305) designed to come into contact with said connecting element (9) is substantially covered with fluff.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein said fluff is deposited by flocking.

29. A method according to claim 28, wherein said flocking is of electrostatic type.

10 30. A method according to claim 28, wherein said fluff is held on the tape (3, 4; 102; 104; 204; 304) by the respective adhesive faces (43; 44; 102; 105; 205; 305).

31. A method according to claim 27, wherein said fluff is mixed to the adhesive of said adhesive faces (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305).

15 32. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein there are provided a plurality of hair extensions (C), positioned according to a predetermined arrangement, to allow their multiple application.

33. Assembly for increasing hair volume by thickening and/or lengthening, comprising:

- 20 \* one or a plurality of hair extensions (C) having respective proximal ends (7) provided with a respective connecting element (9);
- \* a first adhesive tape (4; 102) apt to be reversibly applied on the hair to be thickened; and
- \* a second adhesive tape (3; 104; 204; 304), with an adhesive face (43; 105; 205; 305) apt to receive said connecting elements (9).

25 34. An assembly for increasing hair volume by thickening and/or lengthening, comprising:

- \* one or a plurality of hair extensions (C) having respective proximal ends (7) provided with a respective connecting element (9); and
- 30 \* an adhesive tape (2) having a section (3) with an adhesive face (43) onto which there are arranged said proximal ends (7) according to a predetermined arrangement, said adhesive tape (2) comprising a remainder (4) apt to be folded on said section (3) completely covering it, the section (3) and the remainder (4) being separated by a fold line (5), the adhesive face (43) of said section (3) being apt to be reversibly applied on the receiving hair.

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35. An assembly (1) according to one of the claims 33 or 34, wherein said connecting elements (9) are made of a thermoplastic material.
36. An assembly (1) according to claim 33 or 34, wherein said adhesive tapes (3, 4; 102; 104; 204; 304) are transparent.
- 5 37. An assembly (1) according to claim 35, wherein the thermoplastic material comprises polyester and/or polyamide and/or polyurethanes.
38. An assembly (1) according to claim 33 or 34, wherein the adhesive faces (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305) have an adhesive of a non-permanent and reversible type, operated by pressure, with an adhesive force on the respective tape (3, 4; 102; 104; 10 204; 304) greater than that produced on the thermoplastic material.
39. An assembly (1) according to claim 33 or 34, wherein at least the adhesive tapes (3, 4; 102; 104; 204; 304) are resistant to heat.
40. An assembly (1) according to claim 34, wherein the connecting elements (9) are substantially equidistant and placed at the center of the respective section (3) of 15 adhesive tape (2), the extensions (C) being aligned in parallel to each other, so that the hairs of adjacent extensions (C) do not get knotted to each other.
41. An assembly (1) according to claim 34, wherein the remainder (4) of adhesive tape (2) has means (49) for indicating the position of the connecting elements (9).
42. An assembly (1) according to claim 34, wherein, oppositely with respect to 20 the remainder (4), the adhesive tape (2) comprises a flap (45), it also adhesive, apt to be connected to the remainder (4) folded onto the section (3), substantially in a billfold configuration.
43. An assembly (1) according to claims 41 and 42, wherein, in a folded configuration, the assembly (1) further comprises a pair of recesses (46) obtained 25 onto the tape (2) at the side edges, or onto the creasings connecting the remainder (4) and the flap (45) to the section (3), said recesses (46) being positioned at said means (49) for indicating the connecting elements (9) to act as guide for the connection means.
44. An assembly (1) according to claim 33 or 34, comprising a support tape (S), 30 made of a material easily detachable from the adhesive tape (3, 4; 102; 104; 204; 304), arranged to protect the adhesive faces (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305) and the connecting elements (9).
45. An assembly (1) according to claim 33, wherein said second adhesive tape (204) has preferential tearing lines (208) formed in said tape (204), such as to

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implement complementary portions (205) of the tape each covering proximal ends (7) of hair extensions (C).

46. An assembly (1) according to claim 45, wherein the proximal ends (208) follows a substantially fret- or coil-shaped path so that complementary portions (205) of the tape receive the proximal ends (7) and the connecting elements (9) of alternate hair extensions (C).

47. An assembly (1) according to claim 46, wherein, to facilitate the hair extensions (C), the preferential tearing line (208) has a series of notches in the hair extensions (C) and connecting sections at the loops facing the hair extensions (C).

48. An assembly (1) according to claim 45, comprising a pair of preferential tearing or mere separation lines (281) crossing edge-to-edge through each one or more connecting elements (9).

49. An assembly (1) according to claim 48, wherein each proximal end (281) comprises a reference indent (282) to facilitate the assembly of the portions.

50. An assembly (1) according to claim 48, wherein each proximal end (281) comprises a visual position reference (284).

51. An assembly (1) according to any one of the claims 45 to 50, wherein the preferential tearing lines (208, 281) separate a discrete set of connecting elements (9), that is of hair extensions (C) that can thus be mixed.

52. An assembly (1) according to claim 33, wherein the tape (3) is adapted to receive the proximal ends (7) of the hair extensions (C) having a surface roughness (310).

53. An assembly (1) according to claim 33 or 34, wherein the proximal ends (105; 205; 305) of the adhesive tape (3, 4; 102; 104; 204; 304) are in contact with said connecting element (9) is substantially crease-free and having a surface roughness.

54. An assembly (1) according to claim 53, wherein said proximal ends (205; 305) have a surface roughness such as to make the adhesive tape (204; 304) and accordingly the applied connecting element (9) of the tape (3) adhere to the proximal ends (7) of the hair extensions (C).

55. An assembly (1) according to claim 54, wherein said proximal ends (7) are adapted according to one of four modes: by a suitable glazing; by a suitable coating; by a implementable for example with a sanding; by a chemical compound.

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for example with an acid bath in which the tape is immersed; or by an abrasion, implementable with abrasive means rubbed on the tape face.

56. An assembly (1) according to claim 53, wherein said faces (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305) have a plurality of ribs and grooves of transversal dimensions similar to the diameter of an individual hair and of orientation parallel to that of the hairs of the hair extensions (C).

57. An assembly (1) according to claim 56, wherein said ribs and grooves are newly generated onto the tape face (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305) by one of four modes: by a suitable glazing, by an extrusion implemented with a suitable mold, by chemical etching, implementable for example with an adapt silk-screen pad and a corrosive agent applied through the pad; and by a mechanical removal of aligned strips of tape material with suitable abrasive means or surface etching means.

58. An assembly (1) according to claim 54 and 56, wherein said faces (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305) have a surface roughness such as to make the adhesive tape (3, 4; 102; 104; 204; 304) and accordingly the applied connecting element (9) opaque and have a plurality of ribs and grooves of transversal dimensions similar to the diameter of an individual hair and of orientation parallel to that of the hairs of the hair extensions (C).

59. An assembly (1) according to claim 33 or 34, wherein the face (3, 4; 102; 104; 204; 304) of adhesive tape (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305) designed to come into contact with said connecting element (9) is substantially covered with fluff.

60. An assembly (1) according to claim 59, wherein said fluff is deposited by flocking.

61. An assembly (1) according to claim 60, wherein said flocking is of electrostatic type.

62. An assembly (1) according to claim 59, wherein said fluff is held on the tape (3, 4; 102; 104; 204; 304) by the respective adhesive faces (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305).

63. An assembly (1) according to claim 59, wherein said fluff is mixed to the adhesive of said adhesive faces (43, 44; 102; 105; 205; 305).

64. An assembly (1) according to claim 33 or 34, wherein the connecting elements (9) are made of reactive hot-melt glue that is hardening in the presence of moisture.

65. An assembly (1) according to claim 33 or 34, wherein the connecting elements (9) are made of two-pack adhesive.

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66. An assembly (1) according to any one of the claims 33 to 65, wherein there are provided a plurality of hair extensions (C), positioned according to a predetermined arrangement, to allow their multiple application.

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